

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8972
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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: EIND, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS COMMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF US ANTIDUMPING
PROCEEDINGS ON FRENCH STAINLESS STEEL

REF: STATE 60251

1. FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE TO US TREASURY
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ANTI- DUMPING INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN INITIATED
AGAINST FRENCH STAINLESS STEEL SHEET AND STRIP. IN GENERAL, PRESS
HAS CHARACTERIZED US ACTION AS STILL ANOTHER US PROTECTIONIST ACTION.
LE FIGARO ARTICLE OF MARCH 5 SAYS THIS ANTIDUMPING INVESTIGATION
IS LATEST IN SERIES OF SIMILAR US MANEUVERS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE
AMERICAN BARGAINING POSITION IN PREPARATION FOR MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. COLUMNIST PIERRE BERNARD- DANAY IN ECONOMIC DAILY LES ECHOS,
SAYS THAT FRENCH STEEL EXPORTS TO US, WHICH ARE ALREADY SUBJECT
TO QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS UNDER VRA, HAVE NOW BEEN HIG BY NEW
PROTECTIONIST MEASURE. IN SUPPORT OF HIS CONTENTION THAT ANTI-
DUMPING INVETIGATION IS PROTECTIONIS IN INTENT, BERNARD- DANAY
REPORTS THAT ON SAME DAY THAT TREASURY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED
ACTION

ON FRENCH STAINLESS STEEL, US STEEL COM ANNOUNCED SIX PERCENT
INCREASE IN ITS PRICES OF SAME PRODUCTS. HE ALSO REFERS TO
OFFICIAL GOF VIEW THAT USG FAILS TO ADHERE TO THE PROVISIONS OF
THE ANTI- DUMPING CODE WHICH WAS IN FACT CAREFULLY DRAFTED TO
AVOID CONFLICT WITH US LEGISLATION AND WHICH US SIGNED. COLUMN
CONCLUDES WITH WARNING THAT WHILE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
HAVE STATED OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING TARIFFS AND NTB' S, IT SHOULD NOT
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PAGE 02 PARIS 09578 05D NOT STOP ZAIRE FROM ACQUIRING FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ZAIRE, HE SAID, WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH CURRENT AID AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE. EACH YEAR FRANCA-ZAIRIAN COMMISSION LOOKED AT RELATIONS ON BASIS OF STRICT EQUALITY, WITHOUT ANY COMPARISON TO RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN A FORMER METROPOLITAN COUNTRY AND FORMER COLONIES.

3. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ZAIRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM OCAM, MOBUTU SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF RE- ENTERING ORGANIZATION OR OF EVEN PARTICIPATING ON TECHNICAL BASIS. ZAIRE REJECTED ALL REGIONAL BLOCS, SINCE ZAIRE WAS A CROSSROADS IN AFRICA BETWEEN ARAB, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES. ZAIRE' S MISSION HE SAID WAS TO BE A COMMON DENOMINATOR BETWEEN ALL STATES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR LANGUAGE. ON OTHER HAND MOBUTU DENIED ANY DESIRE FOR LEADERSHIP EVEN IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND OR FOR COMMPETION WITH NIGERIA.

4. MOBUTU EXPATIATED ON CONCEPT OF AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY ON ROLE OF THE CHIEF IN AFRICAN SOCIETY AS A FIRST AMONG EQUALS AND ON AUTHENTICITY. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM QUAI SOURCES THAT AT LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU MOST OF TIME TAKEN UP WITH DISCUSSION OF AUTHENTICITY, ON WHICH POMPIDOU FOUND MOBUTU IMPRESSIVE).

5. COMMENT: INTERVIEW FOCUSSES ON FRANCO- ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, AND GIVES IMPRESSION THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE FRANCO- ZAIRIAN COOPERATION CONSIDERABLE. OFFICIALS AT BOTH QUAI AND AT FOCCART' S SECRETARIAT GENERAL HAVE TOLD US THAT IN THEIR VIEW MOBUTU' S PURCHASES OF FOREIGN MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROBABLY NOT JUSTIFIED BY ZAIRIAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND THAT GENERAL PRODIGALITY OF HIS REGIME COULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE. NONETHELESS FRENCH OFFICIALS SEEM TO TAKE POSITION THAT AS LONG AS ZAIRE IS ABLE TO PAY, IT IS NOT FOR THEM TO QUESTION PRIORITIES WHICH MOBUTU HAS SET FOR HIS COUNTRY
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6. TEXT OF INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND KINSHASA.
IRWIN

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